

House of Representatives Standing Committee
Family and Human Services

Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family

Australian Bureau of Statistics responses to questions (on notice) asked at the meeting on 14 June 2006

1 2005 Child Care Survey Results - Executive Summary

Results from the June 2005 Child Care Survey were released by the ABS on 22 May 2006, in *Child Care, Australia, 2005* (ABS cat. no. 4402.0). A copy of this publication is given attached.

The 2005 survey was focussed on children aged 0-12 years and their families. It provided information about: the use of formal and informal child care; requirements for additional child care; patterns of attendance; child care costs; use of the Child Care Benefit; parental income; and working arrangements used by parents to help care for their children. It also provided information about pre-school attendance. A list of the data items available from the survey is presented in the Appendix to the report referred to above,

The sample size of the 2005 survey was 10,200 children living in 6,600 households across Australia. In 2005, for the first time, preschool was excluded from the definition of formal care. Information about preschool attendance was still collected and (where possible) presented separately.

The Child Care Survey has been conducted on a three yearly basis for many years. Surveys prior to the 2005 survey only referred to children aged 0 to 11 years. However, the time series data for children aged 0-11 years from these surveys allows trends in child-care to be monitored over time. Key findings from the 2005 survey and its predecessors are provided in the tables and summary of findings of the 2005 survey publication. The following summarises some of the main findings.

Key findings

General overview

- In June 2005, 1.6 million Australian children (46% of all those children aged 0 to 12 years) received some type of child care in the reference week, whether formal, informal or both.
- Formal care (either alone or in combination with informal care) was used by 21% of children aged 0 to 12 years.
- Informal care (either alone or in combination with formal care) was used by 33% of children aged 0 to 12 years.

Changes over time (for children aged 0 to 11 years only)

- Use of formal care increased from 14% of children aged 0 to 11 years in 1996 to 23% in 2005.
- Much of the increase in formal care between 2002 and 2005 was in before and after school care. The number of children aged 0 to 11 years attending before and after school care increased by 56,000 between 2002 and 2005.
- Informal care remained a major source of child care, changing slightly from 36% of children aged 0 to 11 years in 1996 to 33% in 2005.

Usage by age of children

- Formal care was used by: 31% of children aged 1 year; 46% of children aged 2 years; and, 53% of children aged 3 years. These proportions decreased as children started preschool and school, with just 8% of children aged 9 to 12 years using formal child care.
- Informal care was used by: 43% of children aged 1 year; 43% of children aged 2 years; and 38% of children aged 3 years. Informal care continued to play a large role as the age of the child increased, with 26% of children aged 9-12 years using informal child care.

Types of care used

- The major types of formal child care used were:

Long day care, attended by a total 324,700 children:

- 30% of 2 year olds;
- 38% of 3 year olds; and
- 28% of 4 year olds.

Before and/or after school care, attended by a total 230,000 children:

- 14% of 5 year olds; and
- 15% of children aged 6 to 8 years.

Family day care, attended by a total 106,900 children:

- 11% of 2 year olds; and
- 11% of 3 year olds.

- The major providers of informal child care were:

Grandparents, who provided informal child care for 20% (661,200) of all children aged 0 to 12 years. (This represented 60% of all children who used informal child care).

Other relatives, including non-resident parents, provided informal child care for 7% of all children aged 0 to 12 years.

Patterns of attendance

- Many children used relatively small amounts of care. Of the 712,000 children who used formal care, 47% attended for less than 10 hours in the reference week. Of those who used formal care, 17% attended on five weekdays (Monday to Friday).
- Very few children attended formal child care on a weekend (less than one per cent), but almost 30% of children receiving informal child care received that care on a weekend.

Family type

- 56% of children in one parent families used some type of child care, compared with 44% of children in couple families.
- Informal care was used by 42% of children in one parent families compared with 31% of children in couple families.

States/Territories

- The proportion of children aged 0 to 12 years using child care was:
highest in the Australian Capital Territory, at 58%;
lowest in Tasmania (41%) and Western Australia (42%).

Labour force status of parents

- Some child care, whether formal, informal or both, was used by:
54% of children in families where both parents were employed;
32% of children in families where the father was employed and the mother was not employed;
74% of children in lone parent families where the parent was employed;
40% of children in lone parent families where the parent was not employed.
- Formal child care was used by:
25% of children in families where both parents were employed;
14% of children in families where the father was employed and the mother was not employed;
37% of children in lone parent families where the parent was employed;
16% of children in lone parent families where the parent was not employed.

Main reasons for using child care

- The main reasons given by the parents for using formal child care were:
Work-related (for 65% of children);
Beneficial for child (for 17% of children);
Personal (for 15% of children).
- Of children using formal child care whose mother was employed, the reason 'Work-related' was given for 84% of children.
- There were 91,000 children who attended a 'long day care centre' whose mother was not in the labour force (i.e. 28% of children in long day care). The other children's mothers were either employed or unemployed.
- The main reasons given by mothers not in the labour force for having their children in child care were 'personal reasons' (31,800) and 'good for child' (46,100). Personal reasons include such things as 'other study/training (i.e. not work-related), sport, shopping, entertainment/social activity, give parents a break/time alone, voluntary/community activity, caring for relatives, ill in hospital etc. Keeping children in child-care following the birth of a subsequent child to either minimise disruption to the older child's care arrangements, enable the parent to devote some attention to the new child, or to help secure a place for the new child may also be reasons for some mothers.
- Informal care was largely used for work-related reasons as well. The main reasons given by parents for using informal child care were: Work-related (for 48% of children); and Personal (for 34% of children).

Work arrangements used to help care for children

- Information on the use of work arrangements such as flexible working hours, permanent part-time work, shiftwork and working from home was obtained from the survey. 61% of families with at least one parent employed indicated that at least one of these work arrangements was normally used to care for their children.
- Employed mothers were considerably more likely than employed fathers to make use of work arrangements to help care for their children (these were used by 73% of mothers in families where the mother was employed and 34% of fathers in families where the father was employed).

Cost of child care

- The survey aims to measure child care costs net of the Child Care Benefit (and any other rebates). The 2005 Child Care survey results do not take into account the new Child Care Tax Rebate. The average cost of formal child care was close to:
 - \$50 per week per child; and
 - \$61 per week per family (this includes preschool costs which could not be separately determined for families).
- Costs vary considerably according to the type of care, the number of hours used and parental income. Average weekly costs for children in: before and after school care was \$26 per week; long day care centres was \$70 per week.

Needs for more formal child care

- The Child Care Survey collects a range of information that sheds light on people's 'felt need' for (additional) formal child care.
- This information relates to whether the parent had wanted formal child care for their child at any time in the previous four weeks. The survey questions do not measure the number of children who may have had their name on a waiting list for child care whose parent(s) in the mean time were meeting their need for child care by caring for their child themselves (i.e. instead of entering the workforce) or who were meeting the care needs for their children by using informal child care provided by grandparents, other relatives, or unrelated baby-sitters.
- The information on requirements for (additional) formal child care is obtained from the responses to a combination of questions about parents' 'felt need' for formal child care services in the previous four weeks and refers to both:

parents whose child ~~had not~~ used a formal child care service in the previous four weeks, who responded 'yes' to the following question:

'Was there any time in the last ~~four~~ weeks when you/you and your spouse/partner wanted to use any ~~formal~~ child care services for [child's name] but didn't?

AND

parents whose child ~~had~~ used a formal child care service in the previous four weeks, who responded 'yes' to the following question:

'Was there any time in the last ~~four~~ weeks when you/you and your spouse/partner wanted to use any more ~~formal~~ child care services for [child's name] but didn't?

- The survey also included a question asking those who did not require (additional) formal care why they did not require it.

- For the vast majority of children (94%), (additional) formal child care had not been required in the previous four weeks.
- There were 188,400 children (6%) for whom (additional) formal care had been required in the previous four weeks - 9% of those aged 0 to 4 years, and 4% of those aged 5-12 years.
- Of these 188,400 children: for 54%, (additional) formal care had been required for one or two days in the previous four weeks;
- The main types required were before and/or after school care (64,400), long day care (52,900) and occasional care (40,800).
- The main reasons the required care was not used were: 'Booked out or no places' and 'No services exist/don't know of any in area' (33% and 10% respectively of those children for whom (additional) formal care was required, a total of 82,200 children), 'Cost or too expensive' (16% involving 30,700 children).
- When asked why (additional) formal care was not required, the parents of another 99,000 children gave the response 'Cost or too expensive'.

Other Questions on Notice arising from ABS appearing before Inquiry into Balancing Work and Family

Query 2 - Identifying dependent parents in ABS surveys

The Chair of the Committee (Mrs Bronwyn Bishop) asked ABS whether the 2007 Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation (SEARS) would identify households with dependent parents as well as households with dependent children.

ABS Response

SEARS 2007 will collect information from all persons in a household aged 15 years and over. Therefore, older persons in the household and their parental relationship to younger persons in that same household are identified. A dependency or caring relationship towards the older person may be considered to exist based on attributes of the occupants of the dwelling (e.g. the older person is a recipient of a disability pension, or the younger adults are the owners of the dwelling in which their parent also resides and the parent's main source of income is from government benefits). People will be asked whether they have caring responsibilities for an aged or invalid family member. Those people using flexible working arrangements will be asked if the flexibility is being utilised because of their caring for an aged or invalid family member; and those people working less than 35 hours per week are asked whether the reason for working part time is because of their caring for an aged or invalid family member. However, the aged or invalid family member need not be a parent, and may not reside in the same dwelling as the carer.

The ABS Survey of Disability, Aging and Carers, last conducted in 2003 (and expected to be 6 yearly), provides information about people with caring roles for other people, and separately identifies those cared for in terms of whether they are co-resident with the carer. The people being cared for are those who have a disability or are aged 65 years and over with needs for assistance. The 2003 survey showed that there were 146,500 households out of 7,640,200 (i.e. 1.9% of households) where there was at least one carer of labour force age providing care to a co-resident parent who had a disability.

Query 3 - Marital/socio-economic status of mothers of recent births

The Chair of the Committee (Mrs Bronwyn Bishop) asked ABS whether there was information about the marital status and socio-economic characteristics of women having children in recent years.

ABS Response

The Monthly Population Survey (MPS) provides up-to-date information on parents, including mothers of recently born children. Each month the survey provides information for the mother (and child's father or mother's partner if co-resident), on labour force status, social marital status, age, country of birth, year of arrival, age of children, with additional information available on industry, occupation, hours worked (and reasons for working part-time), duration of current job, duration of unemployment, and reason for unemployment.

Supplementary components of the survey identify, on a rotating basis, more details about the mother's education, employee earnings, working time arrangements, contract employment, other working arrangements, labour mobility, and child care.

The biennial ABS Survey of Income and Housing provides details about the housing, sources of income, education, employment, social marital status, country of birth, and year of arrival for mothers with recently born children. Other less frequent ABS surveys provide a range of data about recent mothers.

The data items available from the Birth Registration collection (obtained from the State and Territory Registers of Birth) provide some data items on parent's socio-economic status including: ages of the mother and father; Indigenous status of child/mother/father; country of birth of mother/father; registered marital status; previous children of the current relationship; duration of marriage; date of marriage; country of marriage; and father's occupation.

The ABS Census of Population and Housing provides data about both the legal and social marital status of parents, as well as information about their country of birth and Indigenous status, the labour force status of both parents (and if employed their occupation and hours of work), and various indicators of socio-economic status including their level of educational attainment, household income and whether living in a relatively disadvantaged area or not.

Query 4 - Labour force participation rates for women of child-bearing age

Ms George asked whether it was possible for the ABS to plot the labour force participation rates for women of child-bearing age in Australia compared to those for some other OECD nations. Ms George said that there was a contention that the rates for Australian women of child-bearing age were considerably depressed compared to some other OECD countries.

ABS Response

The following table shows labour force participation rates by age for women of 'child bearing age' (taken for this purpose to be from 15 to 49 years of age) in Australia, UK, USA, New Zealand and Canada for 2004, the most recent year for which comparable data are available. The data show that female labour force participation rates in Australia were generally lower than for women in other countries in most age groups after the 25-29 year age range, but generally higher in the earlier age ranges.

These international comparisons do not take account of the mother's age at child birth, age at re-entry to the labour force, participation in education, nor the rates of unemployment in the countries being compared.

Female Labour Force Participation Rates, 2004

	Age group(years)							
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	
Australia	58.2	73.9	73.0	67.2	68.0	75.3	77.7	
USA	43.8	70.5	73.1	74.0	74.5	76.7	78.2	
UK	57.4	70.5	75.7	74.4	76.1	78.9	79.8	
New Zealand		52.4	66.5	70.6	68.2	73.0	78.5	81.6
Canada		55.4	76.4	81.8	81.9	82.3	83.0	82.5

These data have been obtained from the OECD website addressed below.
<http://www1.oecd.org/scripts/cde/members/lfsdataauthenticate.asp>

Query 5 - Impact of Family Tax Benefit Part B on workforce participation

The Chair of the Committee (Mrs Bronwyn Bishop) asked ABS whether there was information that might indicate that the introduction of Family Tax Benefit Part B has resulted in more married women staying at home rather than participating in the workforce.

ABS Response

Family Tax Benefit Part B (FTBB) was introduced from 2000-01. The ABS Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) information (see the following table) does not show a decline in the employment of women in couple families with dependant children after the introduction of FTBB - the proportion that is employed has grown.

Couples with dependent children

	1996-97	1997-98	1999-00	2000-01	2002-03	2003-04
Mother employed (%)	59	60	61	62	62	66
Mother not employed (%)	41	40	39	38	38	35

The SIH asks respondents to identify whether they receive FTB, but does not ask for separate reporting of FTBA and FTBB (due to concerns that respondents can readily report their total FTB receipts, but not the components). A model was constructed to identify those respondents that appeared, based on reported characteristics, to be eligible to receive FTBB in 2003-04. For all income units that appeared eligible and which reported receiving some FTB, the amount of modelled FTBB was \$49.5 million per week, a little higher than the \$47.2 million per week actually paid in that year. Looking at this model-identified respondent group expected to have FTBB and also reporting receiving any FTB, shows that 27% of mothers in couple families were employed (about 194,000 mothers), very much lower than 66% of all mothers in couple families with dependent children who were employed (1,392,000 mothers). In other words, those income units expected to be receiving FTBB were much less likely to have a mother who was employed. However, respondents were not asked whether the FTTB income made any difference to the decisions about labour force participation.

Query 6 - Proportion of couple families with one partner receiving employment income

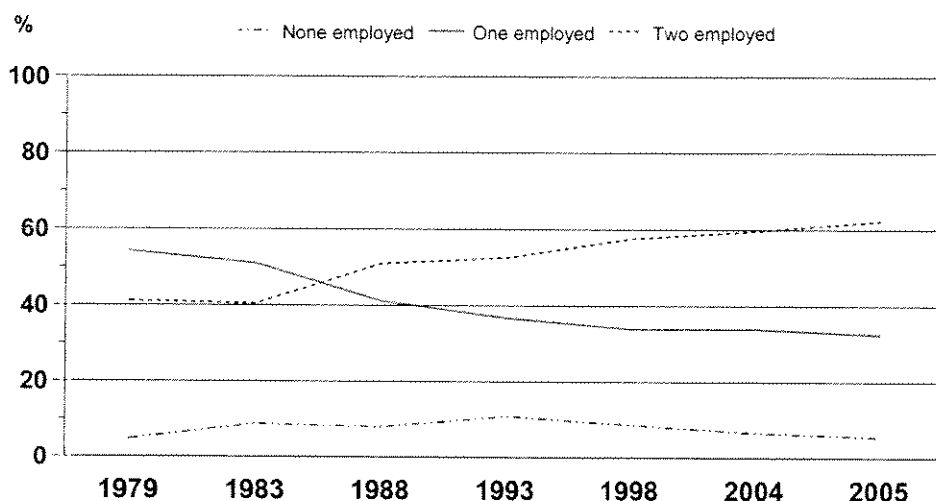
The Chair of the Committee (Mrs Bronwyn Bishop) asked ABS what percentage of couple families have a single income with one parent remaining at home to look after the family.

ABS response

Data from the ABS Labour Force Survey (in the graph and table below) show that the proportion of couple families with dependent children and with one employed parent fell from 54% in 1979 to 32% in 2005. Conversely, the proportion of such families with two employed parents rose from 41% to 61%.

Families and the Labour Force

Couple families with dependants, number of employed parents (%)



	None employed %	One employed %	Two employed %
1979	5	54	41
1983	9	51	40
1988	8	41	51
1993	11	37	53
1998	9	34	58
2004	7	34	60
2005	6	32	62

Note: While there was a change in 1986 to the definition for Dependent Children (essentially to extend recognition age cut-off for dependency for full time students from 20 years to 24 years), this change does not impact significantly on the time series proportions shown above which largely reflect the rapidly increasing proportion of women being employed since 1979.

Query 7 - Proportion of couple families with a male full-time employee and a female part-time employee

Ms George asked ABS whether the couple family with the father working in a full-time job and the mother working in a part-time job was becoming the norm.

ABS response

The June 2005 Labour Force Survey showed that of all couple families with dependent children, 34% involved families in which the father worked in a full-time job and the mother work in a part-time job. The proportion of such families has increased since 1988, to now be similar to the proportion on families with dependent children where only one parent is employed (for which the proportion has declined from 41% in 1988 to 32% in 2005).

Couple families with dependent children by labour force status

	None Employed %	One employed %	Two employed %	Father employed F/T Mother employed P/T %
1988	8	41	51	29
1993	11	37	53	29
1998	9	34	58	31
2004	7	34	60	32
2005	6	32	62	34

Query 8 - Does the ABS Child Care Survey explore reasons for not using formal care

Ms George asked ABS if the Child Care Survey asked parents whether they made a conscious decision not to use formal child care, and if so the reasons for making that decision.

ABS response

The ABS Child Care Survey asks about the reasons why families do not access the formal child care that they have identified as required in the 4 weeks prior to interview. Most of this information is published in *Child Care, Australia, 2005* (cat. no. 4402.0) (copy enclosed) and is referred to below.

Respondents are asked for the main reason that any formal care (including additional formal care) was required in previous 4 weeks, but the care was not used (see Table 18, page 32 in 4402.0). Of the 188,400 children for whom more formal care was reported as being required, the main reasons for the care not being used that reflect a decision not to use the care include:

Cost	16% (30,700 children)
A range of other service related issues (distance, times, flexibility etc)	10% (19,400 children)

Respondents were also asked for the main reason that any formal care (including additional formal care) was not required in previous 4 weeks (see Table 19, page 33 in 4402.0). Of the 3,201,800 children for whom no (more) formal care was reported as being required, the main reasons for the care not being required that reflect a decision not to use the care include:

Cost	3% (99,000 children)
A range of other service related issues (distance, times, flexibility etc)	2% (49,500 children)

Query 9 - Women in the full-time work force - impacts on profit growth

The Chair of the Committee (Mrs Bronwyn Bishop) asked ABS about any research on the impact of the increased number of women who are entering the workforce, and whether this research indicated that women were taking more of the newly created full-time jobs? If so, did research also show that women are traditionally paid less than men, which might mean that the rise in the profit share (in factor incomes) has in part resulted from the process of women entering the workforce.

Ms George similarly asked if there were any data that suggested that the growth in the profit share had been substantially due to women coming into work at lower rates of pay rather than men.

ABS Response

The numbers of women employed full-time increased by 21.7% in the ten years from June 1996 to June 2006, and women's share of full-time employed persons increased from 32.7% to 34.4%. The numbers of women employed part-time increased by 34.2% over the same period.

Estimates of profit share (defined as the gross operating surplus of financial and non-financial corporations as a proportion of Australia's total factor income) over the 10 years to 2004-05 show that the share has grown from 23.1% in 1994-95 to 26.2% in 2004-05. After analysing the industry data underlying this aggregate result the major positive contributors are Finance and insurance (+ 1.8 percentage points), Mining (+0.8 percentage points), Property and business services (+0.8 percentage points) and Construction (+0.6 percentage points). Detracting from growth in the profit share over the period have been Manufacturing (-0.7 percentage points) and Electricity, gas and water (-0.3 percentage points). All other industries have had a negligible impact on the profit share. Growth in the profits share has been particularly strong since 1999-2000, with 2004-05 result being the highest share on record. Over that same 5 year period women's share of full time employment grew from 33.4% to 34.2%.

A comparison of male/female earnings - from the perspective of average hourly ordinary time earnings for full time adult non-managerial employees is sometimes used as a proxy for pay rates. Changes between May 1994 and May 2004 in such earnings were analysed for males and females in an article in the 2005 edition of *Australian Social Trends* (AST) (ABS cat. no. 4102.0). The data in that article for those industries discussed above that contributed most to the increase in the profit share are shown in the following table.

Growth in average hourly ordinary full time earnings: May 1994 - May 2004

Industry	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
	% growth	% growth
Mining	43.2	52.3
Manufacturing	56.1	52.7
Electricity, gas and water	64.2	58.2
Construction	52.4	46.0
Finance and insurance	85.0	65.7
Property and business services	55.9	46.6

On the basis of these data alone it might be concluded that a relationship exists between growth in profit share and relative growth in earnings by sex - for example, for the Finance and Insurance and the Property and Business Services industries. At the same time however, the results for Mining, Manufacturing and Electricity, gas and water tend to point in the other direction. Based on data in the AST article, for the first four industries in the table above, the proportions of full-time employees that were female were quite low (between 9.9% and 23.2%) while the proportions in Finance and insurance (54.3%) and Property and business services (45.2%) were higher than the average. However, the female share of full-time employment in the Finance and Insurance industry (the major industry contributor to the increase in profit share) fell from 51.5% in 1994-95 to 49.2% in 2004-05, and the share in the Property and Business Services industry also fell slightly. Part-time males in the finance and insurance industry account for less than 10% of all males employed in that industry whereas the proportion for women is over 25%. In the Property and business services industry the proportion of the work force that is part-time is about 15% for males and about 40% for females. These results indicate that a simple aggregate comparison of growth in full time earnings can miss consideration of structural differences across industries.

Further, women earning less than men are not the same as women receiving lower rates of pay. At the industry level, the occupation mix of males and females is very different. For example, in the finance and insurance industry, over 70% of the full time male employees are managers/administrators, professionals or associate professionals, whereas for females, the proportion is 40%. In contrast, the proportion of males working full-time that are intermediate/advanced clerical and service workers is about 25%, compared with about 60% for females. In the Property and Business services Industry, the proportion of full time male employees who are managers/administrators, professionals or associate professionals is about 75%, compared with less than 60% for females, while for intermediate/advanced clerical and service workers the male share was about 5% compared with about a third for females.

The 2005 AST article notes that while men and women doing the same job for the same employer may get paid the same hourly rate, across occupations and industries there are variations associated with a variety of characteristics such as skill level, danger, remoteness, labour supply and demand, competitiveness and bargaining strength.

Another contributor to the growth in profit share may be capacity utilisation. Multifactor productivity growth cycle peaks can be viewed as points of equivalent capacity utilisation, and rising capacity utilisation reflected in the growth cycle to the 2003-04 peak may be contributing to the increased profit share. Terms of trade effects in recent years are another contributor.

Query 10 - Underground economic activity in child care

The Chair of the Committee (Mrs Bronwyn Bishop) asked about the size of the black market relating to child care, and for information about the use of informal child care (where underground economic activity is likely to take place).

Ms George asked a similar question about the scope of the black economy and the sectors where the black economy was most significant.

ABS Responses

Estimates of the underground economy

In the compilation of the Australian estimate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) the ABS makes an adjustment for the cash or underground economy to allow for the fact that economic activity is somewhat broader than what is measured. By its nature, data on the underground economy are not available - either within the ABS or the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) - and hence some informed judgements are required based on a range of descriptive information. At present the adjustment made in the compilation of GDP is 1.8% or around \$16b in 2004-05. The adjustment is compiled by industry but not at a fine level of detail and hence there is no specific estimate of the underground economy in child care services. As a general observation the extent of the underground economy is considered to be greatest in those industries which deliver services to households.

The ABS is not in a position to estimate how people operating in the underground economy may respond to changes in the administrative arrangements, including changes in taxation legislation.

Informal child care

The June 2005 Child Care Survey showed that informal child care was used by 1,104,100 children in the 0-12 year age range. Most of the children received informal care from their grandparents (661,200), followed by other relatives (304,300) and other persons (207,300). Of all the children in informal care, 96,600 (9%) had used informal care for which some payment was made to the provider. A substantial proportion of the payments made for informal care were relatively small (i.e. for 50% of children for whom a payment was made the amount paid was less than \$40 per week).

The Child Care Survey data are sourced from parents and relate to the number of children using informal care, and do not provide any information on either the number of providers or their characteristics.

Children who used informal care by cost of care, June 2005

	Weekly cost of care				Total	Some cost	
	No cost	\$1-\$39	\$40-99	\$100 or more			
	'000s	'000s	'000s	'000s	'000s	'000s	% of total
Grandparents	640.7	11.6	8.1	0.9	661.2	20.5	3.1
Other relative	289.1	7.2	5.6	2.3	304.3	15.2	5.0
Other person	146.4	29.1	19.0	12.8	207.3	60.9	29.4
Total(a)	1,007.5	47.9	32.7	16.0	1,104.1	96.6	8.7

a) components do not add to total as children may have used more than one type of carer.

Source: Table 9 : 2005 Child Care, Australia (cat. no. 4402.0)

Query 11 - Numbers of intact families

Mr Fawcett asked ABS for an explanation of the difference between the proportions of families that are intact reported by Mr David de Vaus (90.1%) and that recorded by the ABS's 2003 Family Characteristics Survey (FCS) (71.7%). Mr Fawcett also asked about the size of the sample on which the ABS estimates were based.

ABS Response

Presenting the FCS data referred to by Mr Fawcett on a comparable basis to that used by Mr de Vaus shows that the measures from the two sources are virtually the same.

Mr David de Vaus refers to 90.1% of all couple families in Australia in 2001 being intact couple families (Table 5.1, Family Types Containing a Child Under 18, 2001', page 60, in his book, *Diversity and Change in Australian Families, Statistical Profiles* published by the Australian Institute of Family Studies in 2004). The source used by Mr de Vaus was from the 2001 cycle of FaCSIA's Household Income and Labour Dynamics in Australia (HILDA) Survey.

Data relating to counts of families are available from the FCS, and in 2003 there were 1,952,200 couple families with a child under 18 years, of which 1,775,500 (or 90.9%) were intact families (see Table 2 of *Family Characteristics, Australia, 2003*, ABS, cat. no. 4442.0). Similar data from the 1997 FCS showed that of the 1,911,300 couple families with a child under 18 year, 1,741,100 (i.e. 91.1%) were intact couple families (see in Table 19 in the 1997 issue of 4442.0).

The different ABS figure referred to by Mr Fawcett during the committee meeting was taken from Table 14 in the 2003 issue of 4442.0 and shows the proportion of children aged less than 18 years classified according to their family structure and relationship to their parents. Therefore, not only is the proportion in relation to children and not families, but the main difference is the inclusion of children in one parent families.

The number of households in the 2003 Family Characteristics Survey (FCS) was 24,498 Australia-wide, not the estimated 'at least 11,000' stated by ABS at its meeting with the Committee. That estimated sample size referred to future cycles for the FCS, commencing with 2007-08 which will include about 13,000 households.

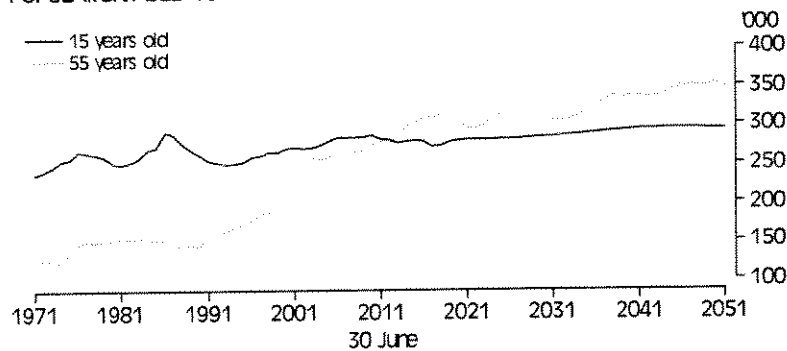
Query 12 - Point of balance in 15 year olds and 55 years olds in population projections

The Chair of the Committee (Mrs Bronwyn Bishop) asked ABS about the interaction between the birth rate and employment figures as reflected in the timing of the crossover between the number of 15-year-olds and 55-year-olds in the population (i.e. roughly used to indicate the balance in numbers of people entering the labour force and those leaving).

ABS response

The graph below illustrates the estimated numbers of people aged both 15 and 55 years of age in Australia from 1971 to 2005 and the projected numbers to 2051 (using Series B assumptions from the ABS' most recent series of population projections). It can be seen from this graph that the number of people aged 55 years of age is projected to exceed the number of people aged 15 years of age from 2013 onwards. The chart also shows how the future projection contrasts with the last 35 years.

POPULATION AGED 15 AND 55 YEARS OLD: 1971 to 2051



Source: *Population by Age and Sex* (ABS cat. no. 3201.0)
Population Projections, Australia, 2004-2101 (ABS cat. no. 3222.0)

Query 13 - Hours of care for children whose mothers were not in the paid workforce

The Chair of the Committee (Mrs Bronwyn Bishop) asked ABS if it had any information on hours of care used for children whose mothers were not in the paid workforce.

ABS Response

The following tables from the 2005 Child Care Survey show the use of child-care by children in both couple and lone mother families. The first table is for those families in which the mother was not in paid employment while the second is for those families in which the mother was in paid employment.

Relatively few children whose mothers were not in paid employment used child care, and even when they did, only used it for short periods of time.

In 2005, of the 607,500 children aged 0-5 years living in couple families where the child's mother was not in paid employment:

- . 371,100 (61%) did not use care;
- . 61,100 (16%) used care for 10 hours or more per week; and
- . 97,400 (23%) used care for less than 10 hours per week.

In 2005, of the 142,00 children aged 0-5 years living in lone mother families where the child's mother was not in paid employment:

- . 73,400 (52%) did not use care;
- . 48,300 (34%) used care for 10 hours or more per week; and
- . 20,300 (14%) used care for less than 10 hours per week.

For older children (aged 6-12 years) in these family types, far fewer used any care. See table on next page (i.e. page 21).

Compared with mothers who were not in paid employment the children of those mothers that were in paid employment used much more child care (51% of all such children aged 0-5 years in couple families used 10 or more hours of care a week, while 72% of such children in lone mother families used 10 or more hours of care a week) (see table on page 22).

Children aged 0-12 years: Hours of child care used by children whose mothers did not work, 2005

	Partnered mothers(a): child(ren) aged		Lone mothers: child(ren) aged	
	0-5 years	6-12 years	0-5 years	6-12 years
	000's	000's	000's	000's
Did not use care	371.1	419.9	73.4	108.2
Used care for less than 10 hours per week				
formal only	39.5	12.3	5.6	6.7
informal only	92.0	46.8	13.1	13.4
both formal and informal	7.5	3.9	1.6	0.2
Total	139.0	63.0	20.3	20.3
Used care for 10 or more hours per week				
formal only	53.9	2.2	20.4	1.8
informal only	20.5	27.5	18.1	25.6
both formal and informal	23.0	1.1	9.8	2.1
Total	97.4	29.7	48.3	27.4
Total	607.5	513.7	142.0	158.0
	%	%	%	%
Did not use care	61.1	81.7	51.7	68.5
Used care for less than 10 hours per week				
formal only	6.5	2.4	3.9	4.2
informal only	15.1	9.1	9.2	8.5
both formal and informal	1.2	0.8	1.1	0.1
Total	22.9	12.3	14.3	12.8
Used care for 10 or more hours per week				
formal only	8.9	0.4	14.4	1.1
informal only	3.4	5.4	12.7	16.2
both formal and informal	3.8	0.2	6.9	1.3
Total	16.0	6.0	34.0	18.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Excludes children in same-sex couple families.

Source: 2005 Child Care Survey, not previously published.

Children aged 0-12 years: Hours of child care used by children whose mothers worked, 2005

	Partnered mothers(a): child(ren) aged		Lone mothers: child(ren) aged	
	0-5 years 000's	6-12 years 000's	0-5 years 000's	6-12 years 000's
Did not use care	176.7	584.4	6.9	53.5
Used care for less than 10 hours per week				
formal only	46.1	71.4	5.6	13.1
informal only	91.1	180	5.6	27.3
both formal and informal	10.0	14.2	0.3	5.1
<i>Total</i>	<i>147.2</i>	<i>265.6</i>	<i>11.5</i>	<i>45.5</i>
Used care for 10 or more hours per week				
formal only	110.5	25.8	13.8	6.2
informal only	113.3	82.4	8.6	38.3
both formal and informal	108.0	22.4	24.9	17.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>331.8</i>	<i>130.6</i>	<i>47.3</i>	<i>61.7</i>
Total	655.7	980.6	65.7	160.7
	%	%	%	%
Did not use care	26.9	59.6	10.5	33.3
Used care for less than 10 hours per week				
formal only	7.0	7.3	8.5	8.2
informal only	13.9	18.4	8.5	17.0
both formal and informal	1.5	1.4	0.5	3.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>22.4</i>	<i>27.1</i>	<i>17.5</i>	<i>28.3</i>
Used care for 10 or more hours per week				
formal only	16.9	2.6	21.0	3.9
informal only	17.3	8.4	13.1	23.8
both formal and informal	16.5	2.3	37.9	10.7
<i>Total</i>	<i>50.6</i>	<i>13.3</i>	<i>72.0</i>	<i>38.4</i>
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

(a) Excludes children in same-sex partner families.

Source: 2005 Child Care Survey, not previously published.

Query 14 - Geographic imbalances in the supply/demand for child care services

Mrs Markus asked ABS whether it had any information on the geographic imbalances between child-care places available and child care places in demand. She made reference to recent government moves towards getting better data in this area.

ABS Response

ABS explained that the ABS Child Care Survey sample size supported state/territory level estimates and capital city/balance of state estimates, but that sample size limits more detailed geographic level data. While the Child Care Survey does ask parents for reasons required formal care was not used, which includes lack of places, the geographic location of the area in which the care was required (i.e. close to home, close to work, close to school etc.) is not asked.

For the information of the Committee, one Australian Government initiative in this areas is the Child Care Access Hotline, which from 1 July 2006 will provide information on where child care is available in a local area. A Child Care Management System to provide more information on child care availability, supply and use was also announced in the 2006-07 budget. Both of these initiatives are being administered by the Department of Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA).

http://www.facs.gov.au/child_care_measures/overview.htm

Query 15 - Frequency of Time Use Surveys

Ms George noted the importance of the time use survey and asked ABS to consider increasing the frequency of the survey to better support important analysis and policy for family and work balance.

ABS Response

ABS explained at the meeting that this issue was under consideration. ABS is currently conducting a review of its household survey program, and actively looking for opportunities to increase the frequency of the time use survey (TUS), including through increased funding for the survey or through innovative ways of combining the survey with other field collections so that content can be enhanced but the overall costs and overall reporting load on households is held to the minimum consistent with the important information objectives of the survey.

ABS expects to be able to report on the outcomes of its household survey review by late 2006.





Some ABS Statistics relating to

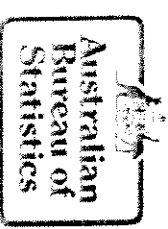
Balancing Work and Family

14 June 2006

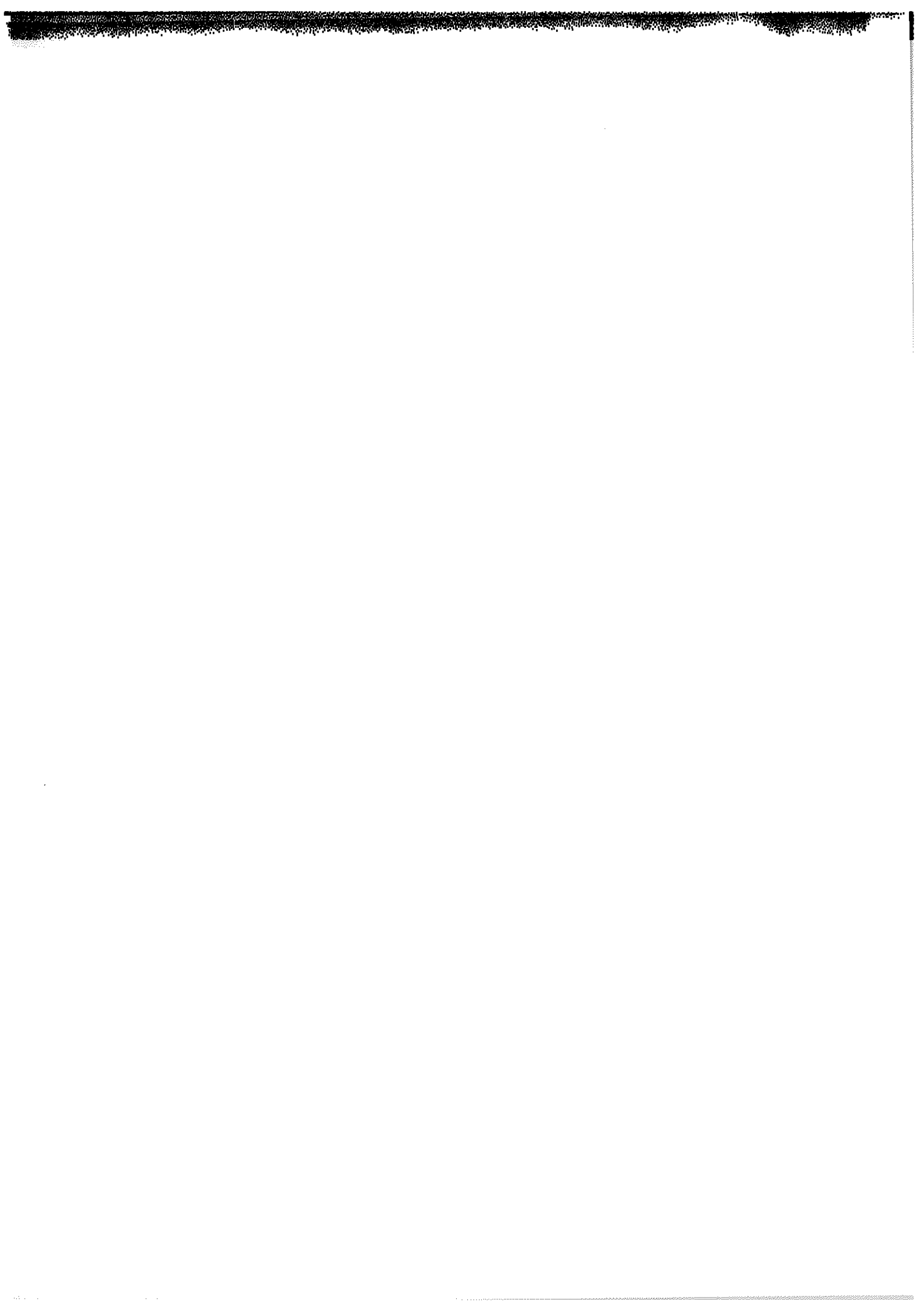


Balancing work and family

selected topics



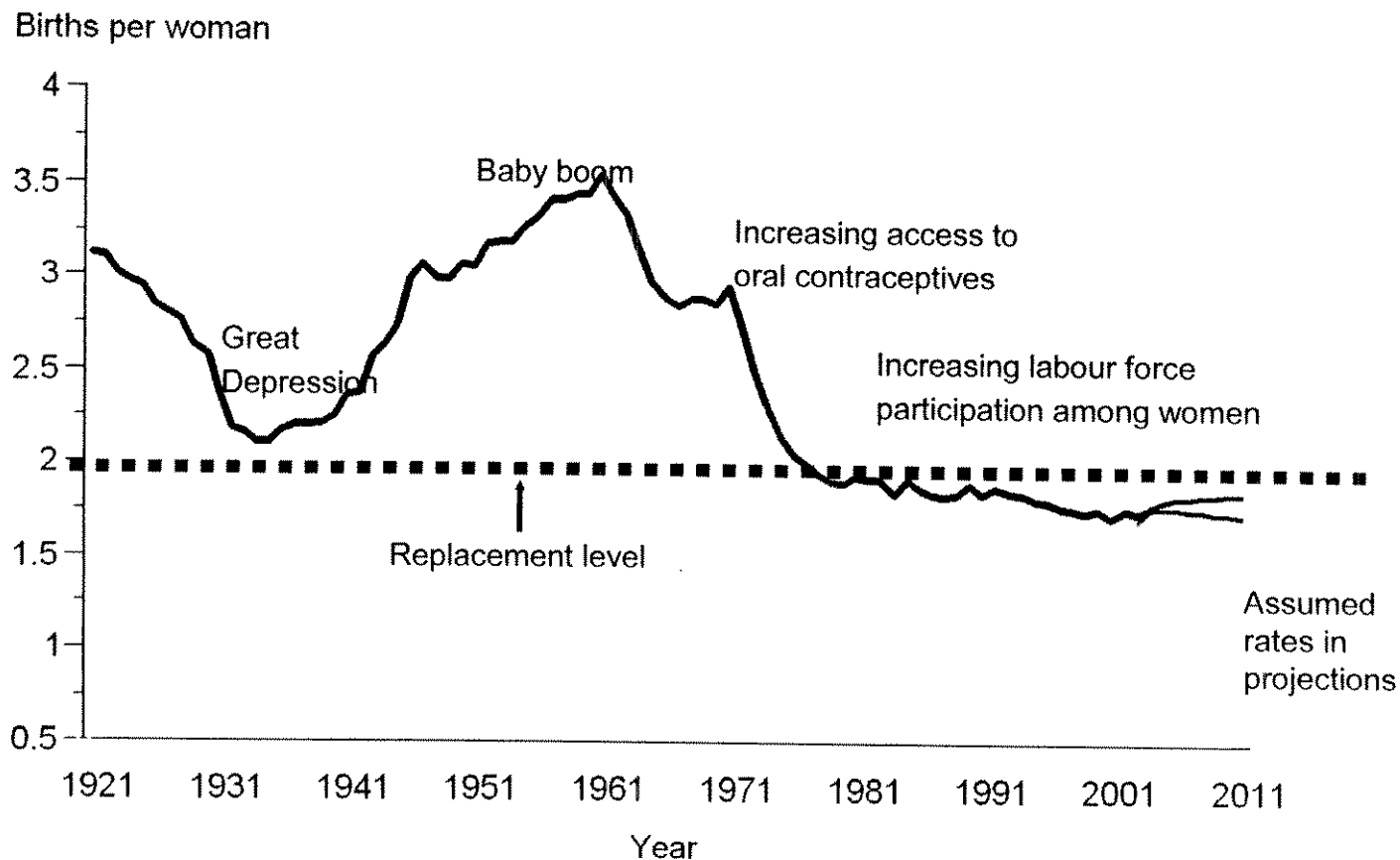
- Changes in fertility
- Employment patterns
- Child care and work arrangements
- Balancing time (paid and unpaid work)



Our fertility rate is below replacement level and has, until very recently, been declining



Total fertility rate and projection assumptions — 1921–2011



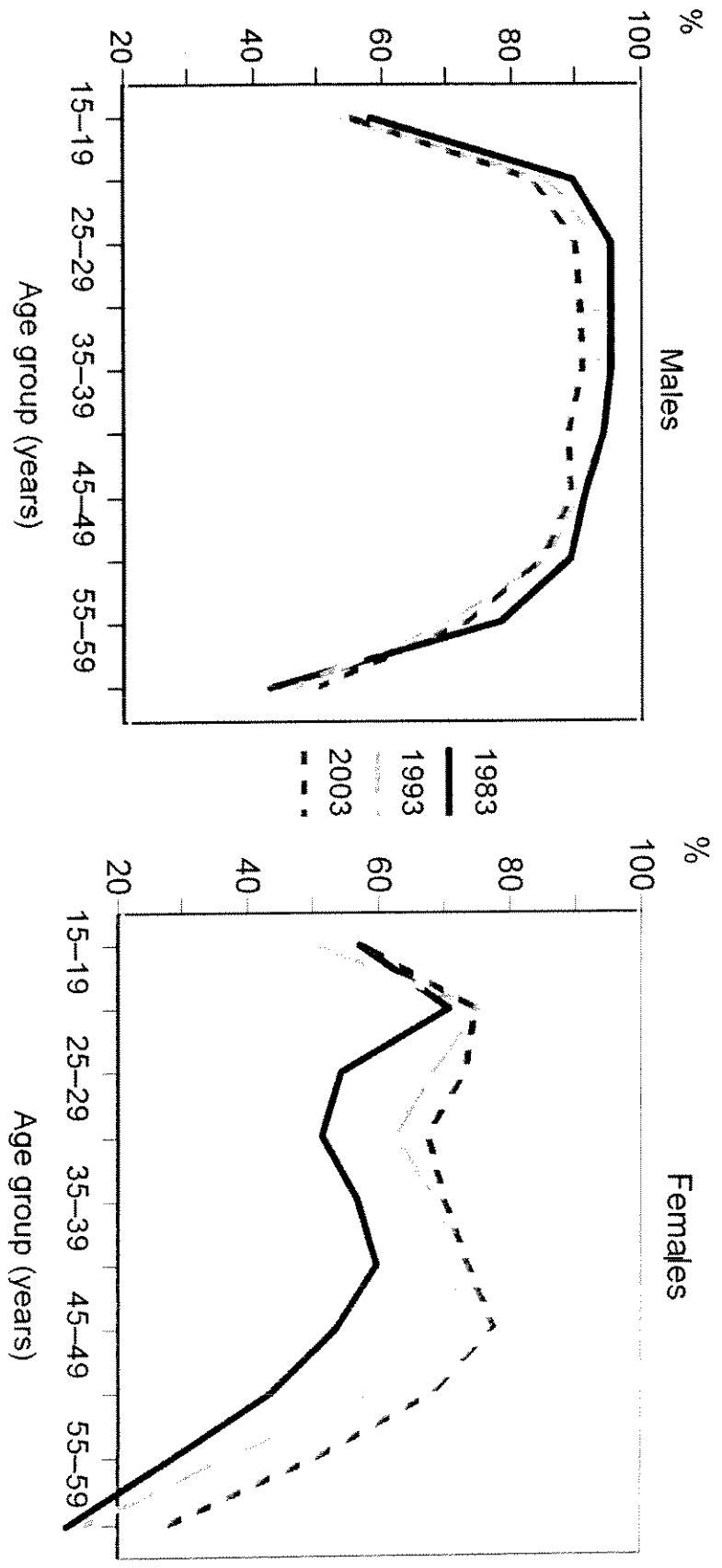
Source: *Births, Australia 2004*, ABS cat. no. 3301.0; *Population Projections, 2004 to 2101*, ABS cat. no. 3222.0, Series A and B assumptions.



Women's employment patterns are more varied than men's across the life cycle



Labour force participation rates

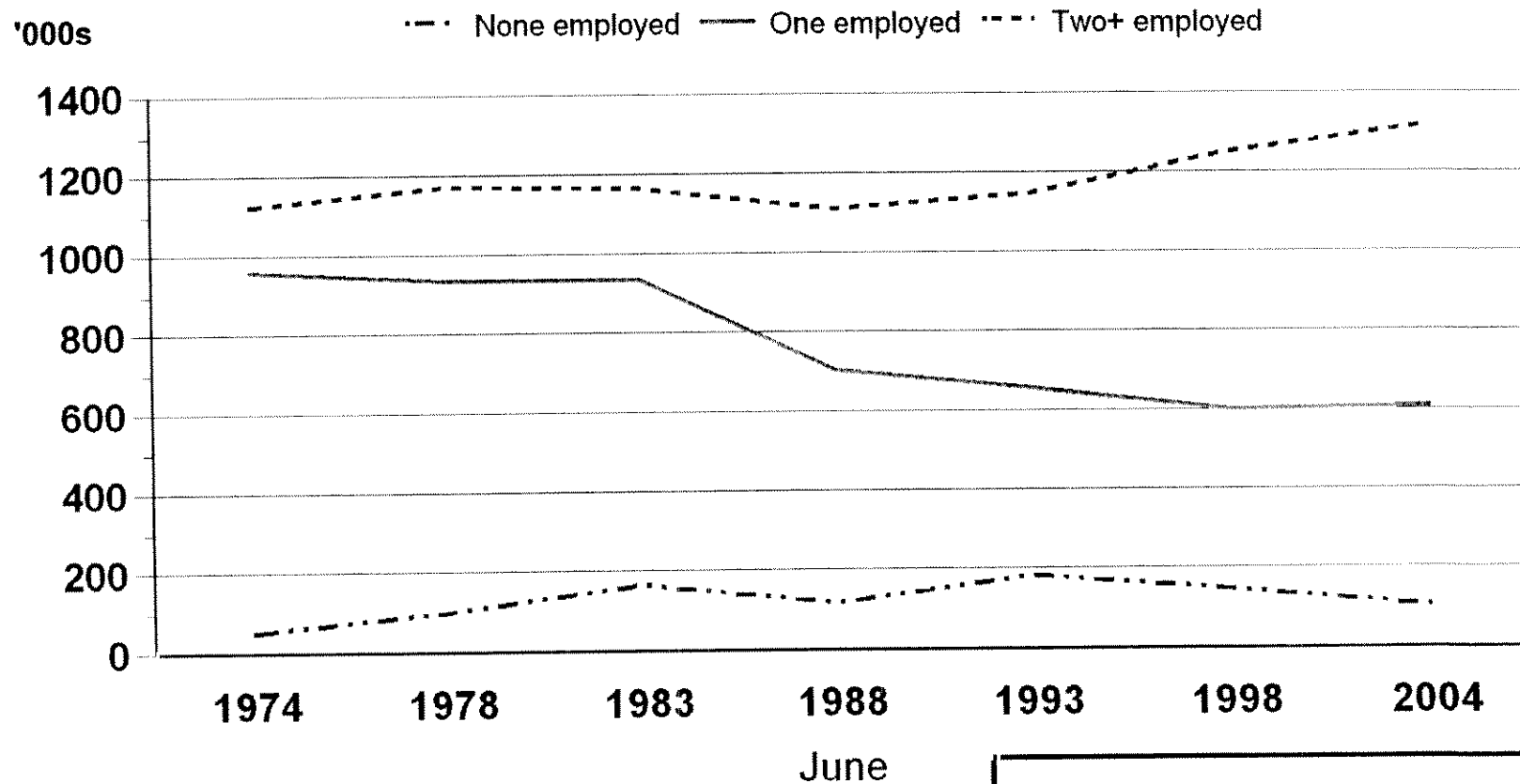


Source: ABS Labour Force Surveys.

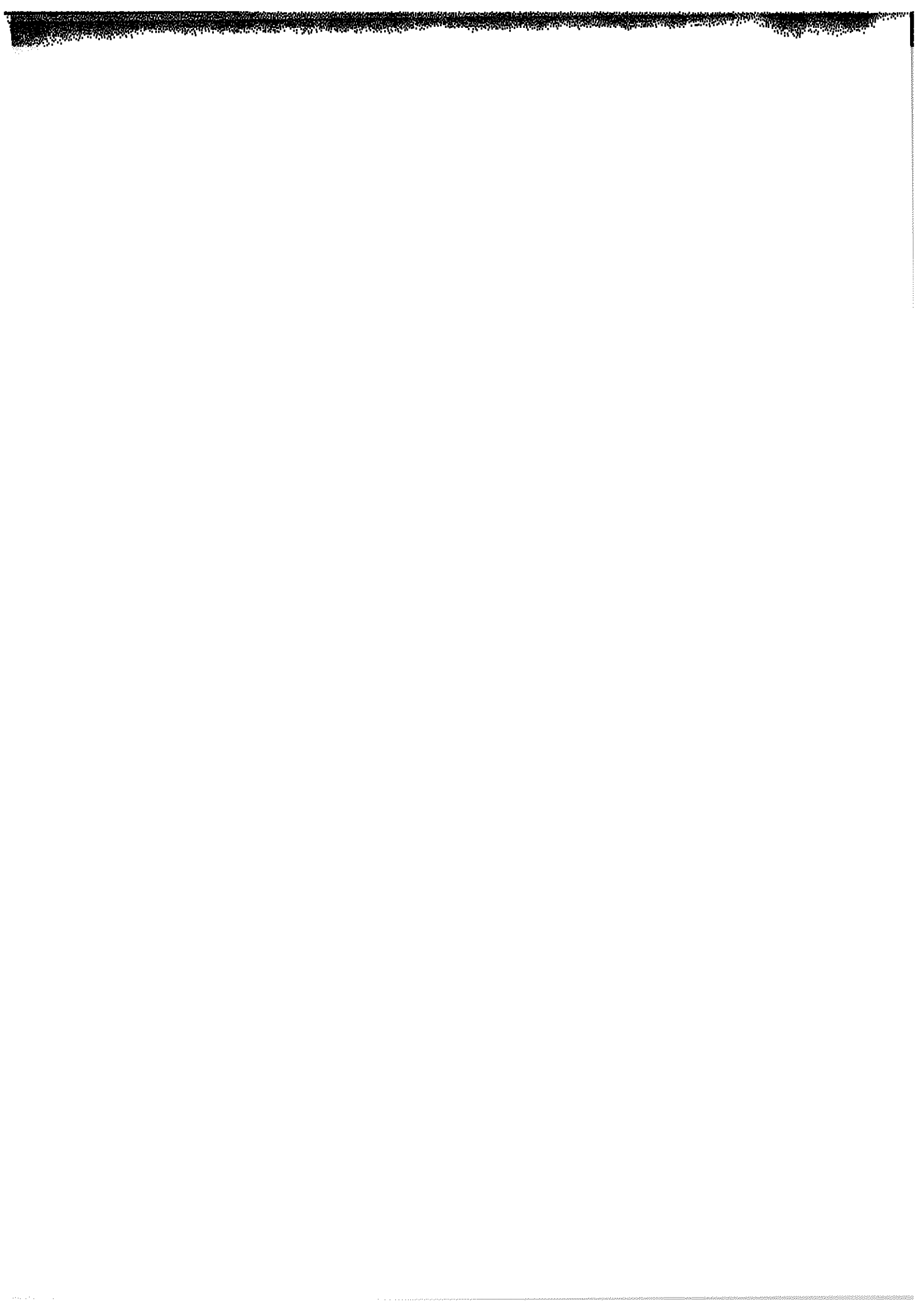


Families and the Labour Force

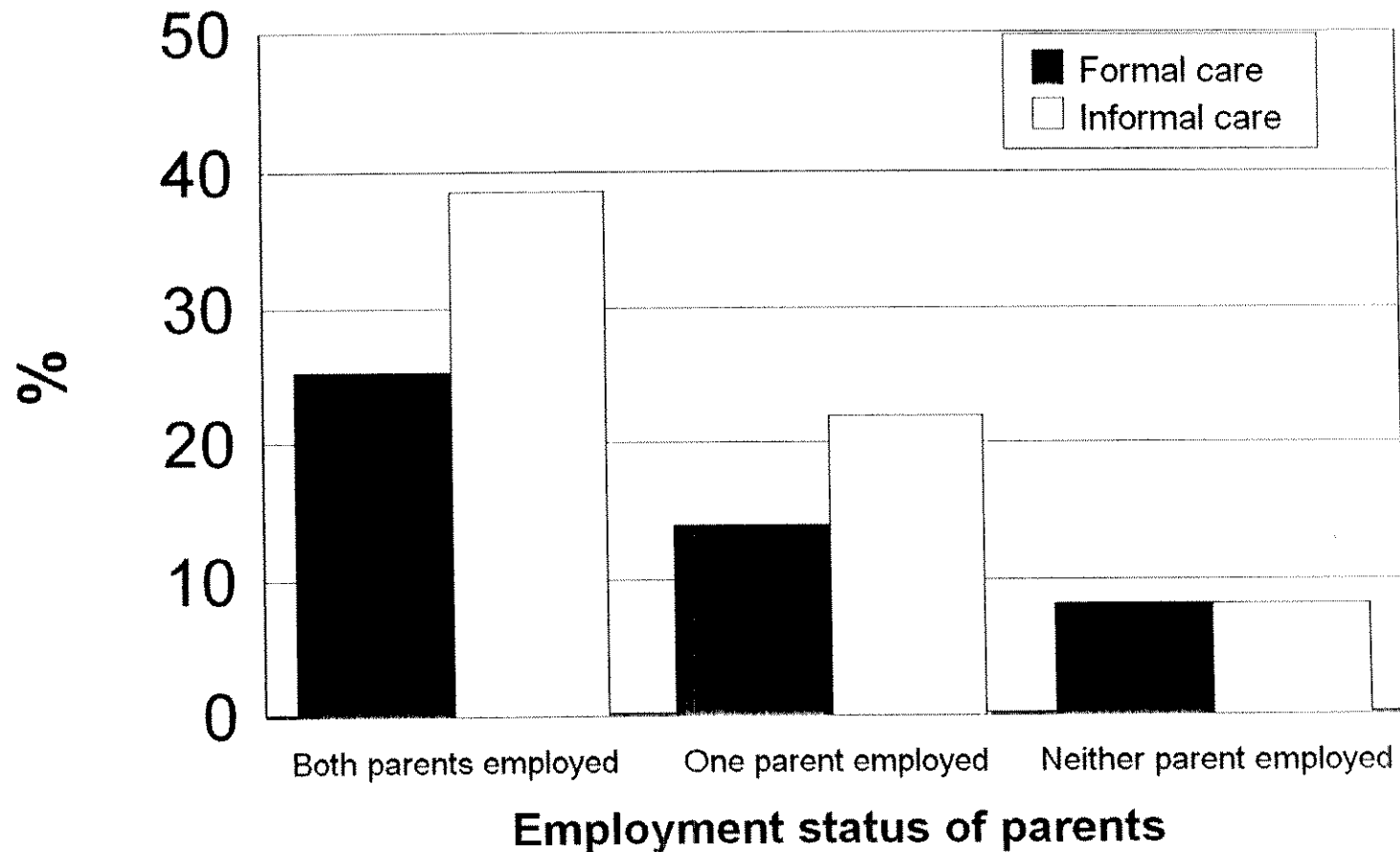
Couple families with dependants, numbers employed



Reference:
 Labour Force, Australia, Labour Force Status and other
 Characteristics of Families
 (cat. no. 6224.0.55.001 - FA1)



Children in couple families (a): Use of child care - 2005

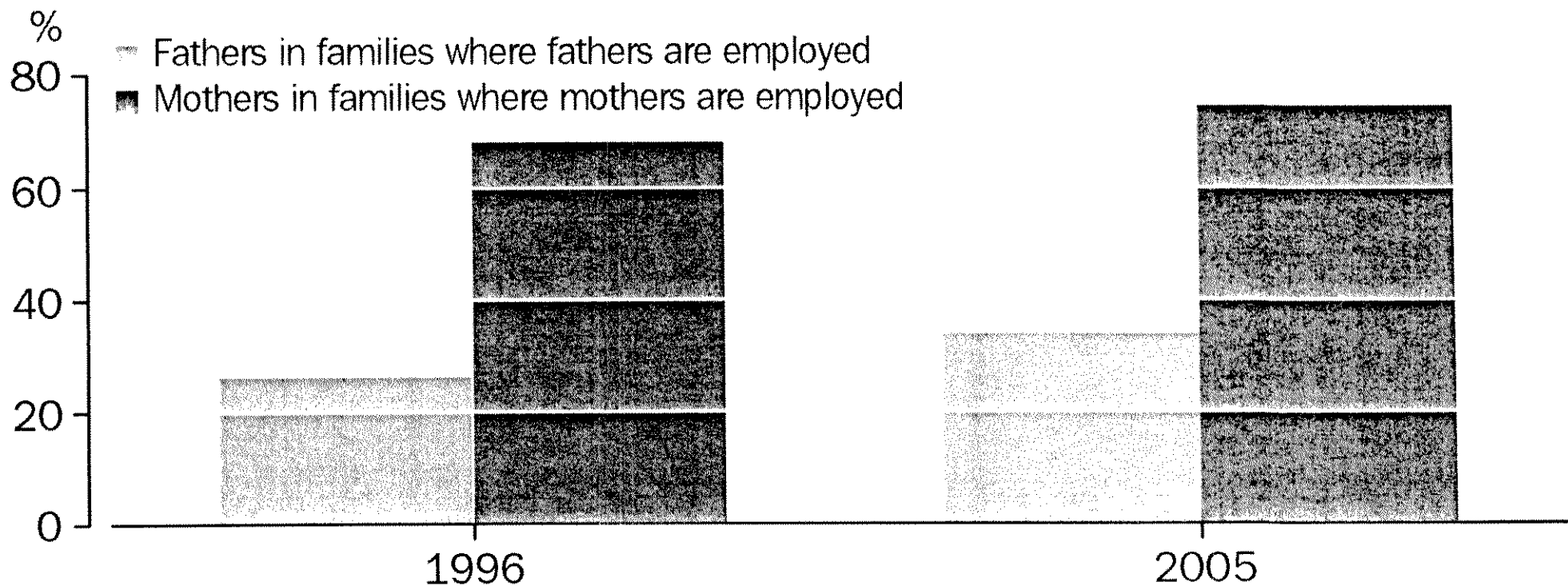


(a) With children aged 0 to 12 years.

(b) Formal care is regulated care away from the child's home. The main types of formal care are before and/or after school care, long day care, family day care and occasional care.

(c) Informal care is non-regulated care, arranged by a child's parent/guardian, either in the child's home or elsewhere. It comprises care by (step) brothers or sisters, care by grandparents, care by other relatives (including a parent living elsewhere), and care by other (unrelated) people such as friends, neighbours, nannies or babysitters. It may be paid or unpaid.



12.5**WORK ARRANGEMENTS(a) USED FOR CHILD CARE,
Families with children aged 0-11 years**

(a) Working arrangements include flexible working hours, permanent part-time work, shiftwork, work at home, job sharing and other arrangements.

Source: *Child Care Survey, Australia, 2005*

